



February 2009

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63rd
Semi-Annual
General Council
meeting

April 4th, 2009
10:00 A.M.

Tecumseh Square Center
Tecumseh, Oklahoma

The minutes for the
General Council meeting
are available in the
Secretary's office.

Executive Committee hosts groundbreaking for new health center

By LaVerne Douglas

Preparing for its future, the Absentee Shawnee Tribe celebrates to mark the start of construction to the new Little Axe Health Center during a ceremony held Feb. 5.

The tribe is one of two tribes in the United States awarded funding through the joint venture process. This process is a partnership between the Absentee Shawnee Tribe and Indian Health Services. The tribe will build the facility and IHS will provide new staffing funds. The health center project will be allocated in the 2010 IHS budget. The other tribe receiving funding for expansion of its health delivery system is the Chickasaw Nation.

"With today's economy we don't know what's going to happen," said Absentee Shawnee Gov. Scott Miller. "But we were fortunate enough to be awarded before the stock market crashed and the economy is where it is now."

Miller said there were 16 other tribes who applied for the joint venture in 2007. He said it is a congressional mandate to assist tribes in expanding their tribal health care systems and the process is highly competitive. The tribe received word of the award in October 2007. Miller said it was an encouraging sign that the tribe would be able to move forward in their health care system.

The new facility will be approximately a 70,000 square foot building and will offer additional services. Some of those services will be optometry, behavioral health, women's clinic, cardiac clinic, orthopedic clinic, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. The project will not only impact services it will also provide up to 140 new jobs.

"I know we still have some steps to go, but I think we've crossed many of the major hurdles," Miller said. "In the next several weeks we should be coming to a closing date so that we can begin the full-blown construction on the project."



l to r: AST Treasurer Anita Chisholm; Representative Alecia Onzawah; Secretary Michelle Lopez; Governor Scott Miller; Lt. Governor Dan Little Axe; and Department of the Interior, Chief, Division of Capital Investment Indian Energy and Economic Development Philip Viles.

At the ceremonial groundbreaking U.S. Department of the Interior, Chief, Division of Capital Investment Indian Energy and Economic Development Philip Viles said the guarantee loan program will finance the construction and initial supply of the health center. He said the loan will sustain not only the Absentee Shawnee tribal citizens, but other tribes as well. This is the first time his office has partnered with Indian Health Services.

"We are delighted to be involved in this project," Viles said. "It's been a pleasure to work with the tribal officials."

A reception was held at the Little Axe Resource Center following the ceremony with more than 70 guests including House Representative Wallace Collins; Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service Acting Director Hickory Starr; Department of Health Acting Commissioner Rocky McElvaney; Department of Health Deputy Commissioner Tim Tall Chief; Sac and Fox Principal Chief George Thurman; and Delaware Nation President Kerry Holton.

Primary Election • Saturday - March 21, 2009 • View Candidates on page 5



Scott Miller
Governor



Dan Little Axe Sr.
Lt. Governor



Michelle Lopez
Secretary



Anita Chisholm
Treasurer



Alecia Onzawah
Representative

February 2009

Governor Miller's Editorial

Gi ke li ko te yo ke wi ho wa se li si mi mo?

This month the Executive Committee has been actively engaged in the process of Strategic Planning. Through this process we hope to develop a 5, 10, 15 year plan for (and with you as Tribal citizens help) the Tribe. This is an exciting time as we look at 2002's Strategic Plan and develop a plan of action. It is our hope to meet with Tribal citizens at community meetings, through staff meetings, and by questionnaire to get your thoughts and ideas in how this should look and work.

In thinking back a few weeks ago our area saw a lot of ice and cold weather and I hope you each stayed home where you were safe and hopefully warm. There were a number of questions that were posed about why our services shut down during that time and I would like you to know it was a difficult decision to make. I and the other Executive Committee discussed the weather and the need for services and decided that for the first two days we would use the Shawnee school closures as our barometer. When the school system remained closed for three days it was decided to open service levels up, as citizens were in strong need of health and pharmacy services and other tribally related services. I apologize if for some reason you didn't receive the services you needed during that time, as it wasn't my intent or the Executive Committee's desire to impose any inconveniences on you, our tribal citizens. Instead it was our intent to look out for the safety of our citizens and employees. We did the best we could within reason and I am thankful to the staff that came in and made sure services were available to you, our Tribal citizens. As a result of closing the Tribal Offices, we are now reviewing the policy and will make pertinent changes.

In January our Finance department provided some wonderful news. We are no longer in the black, the Tribal staff and Executive Committee worked together and thanks to that effort our deficit was reduced and we have a surplus of over \$2,700. This is a huge change from last year when we were over budget by \$699,434. I extend thanks to our Finance and Procurement departments for making this action possible. Treasurer Anita Chisholm is definitely making a difference in our tribal government.

Programs continue to strengthen and grow. Many programs are in a growth process with changes. BIA programs continue to make progress even with those funding reductions the BIA strives to enforce upon us. Clarice Murdock, BIA Self-Governance Coordinator, is to be thanked as for the first time in several years the BIA programs has a

carryover which will be placed back into staffing and other related needs. Representative, Alecia Onzawah, is making great strides forward in making these programs outcome based which simply means they are giving us results that are positive.

I would like to commend Secretary Michelle Lopez and her staff for their hard work in clearing ice from the Tribal Complex after the ice storm and the office renovations occurring at the Complex. Maintenance has been doing its best to keep up with the issues on our aged buildings. Secretary Lopez also has committed to opening a clothes closet for tribal citizens who may be in need of clothing items. The clothes closet will be located at Tecumseh Square, with an announced opening date to come from the Secretary's Office.

On February 5th, 2009, the Governor's Office conducted a ground breaking ceremony on the site where the new health facility will be constructed. In the ceremony, information was given about the Joint Venture process and the types of services that will be provided at the new health clinic. Prior to breaking ground, tribal elder Isaac Gibson Sr. gave a blessing in our Shawnee language. I want to thank Mr. Gibson for the blessing and all who are involved in the Joint Venture. You have put in many hours of hard work into making this a better health system for the future. Construction is scheduled to begin in March this year and occupancy of the new health facility will be around September 2010. There will be a grand opening ceremony when the facility is complete.

I am pleased to say that during my term of office we have seen several positive changes occur and we continue to show growth and make progress towards making the Tribe a better place for both Tribal citizens and staff.

Ne yi wa! Si li no ke ka no la!

Governor's Major Accomplishments for January:

- As of this date 95% of the Architect Drawings for the Joint Venture (health facility) are now complete.
- Our law enforcement office is holding CLEET Reserve Police Academy training on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays.
- A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new health facility with over 70 people present including House Representative Wallace Collins; Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service Acting Director, Hickory Starr; Acting Commissioner Rocky McElvaney of the Department of Health; Tim Tall Chief, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Health; Phil Viles, Loan Guarantee

Program- Department of the Interior; George Thurman, Principal Chief, Sac and Fox Nation and many others.

- Testing for the 2010 Census Bureau has taken place twice at Tecumseh Square with limited numbers in attendance.
- Selected as one of the Tribal leaders to take part in the Interview process for the Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Director - due to inclement weather I was unable to attend.
- Selected by Oklahoma Area Indian Health Service tribal leaders and representatives to serve on the HHS/IHS National Budget Formulation Committee to take place in Washington, D.C.

Treasurer's Report

We have ended FY '08 on a high note. For the first time in many years the Tribe ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$2,700 dollars in the general fund. When I became Treasurer in July of '08, the Tribe had a deficit of \$699,434. How did the deficit get reduced from over a half million dollars to the point we have a surplus in our budget? This was a combined effort of all the AST employees and the Executive Committee (E.C.) and is reflective of what happens when you work together in a cooperative way and communicate with each other in a positive, respectful and helpful way. The E.C. asked the employees to follow the proper policies and procedures of procurement and stop spending unless absolutely necessary and the same was expected from the E.C. With the combined efforts of both groups we accomplished reducing the deficit to a surplus. Hooray and hats off to the AST employees and the E.C.!

Along that line, a key department at the AST is the Finance department, this department has worked extremely hard to get all our accounts reconciled so that we have a clear picture of where we are at. The combined efforts of the Finance department, the E.C. and the Directors of each program are projecting that new FY '09 budgets should be in line for a surplus as well. We will follow each budget closely every month and not allow "over spending" in any area. The following report was written by Patricia Buckley, Controller and Belinda Collins, Assistant Controller. Just look at all the "first" time accomplishments by this department.

Finance Department

The Finance department is preparing for the 2008 audit without any third party assistance for audit preparation. The audit is to commence on March 23. Our goal is to complete the audit by June before the nine month deadline which is September 30 as required by OMB Circular A-133.

Finance received notice from the National Business Center that the Tribe will receive their Indirect Cost Rates for 2008 and 2009. The 2008 rate under the Direct Salary Method is 43.37% and the 2009 rate under the Direct Cost Method is 21.95%. We should have the agreement(s) within the next 2-3 weeks. This will bring the Tribe current in their Indirect Cost rates. Once we have the 2008 audit completed we can begin working on the 2010 Indirect Cost proposal. The Human Resources, MIS, Procurement, and Finance departments have had many accomplishments in 2008 and plan to continue to accomplish much more in 2009. Note the 2008 Accomplishments below.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The 2007 accounting has been done.
- For the first time in several years the 2007 audit was completed by September 2008.
- Indirect cost is caught up, for the first time in several years.
- Indirect cost 2009 rate has been preliminarily approved.
- The 2008 books are in the process of being caught up
- The bank reconciliations are completed through December.
- Budgets and spending are being closely monitored.
- Finance continues to work on an ongoing I.R.S. audit that has been in the
- process for approximately two years.
- Finance moved to Title VI building.
- Endured a Server crash that housed the accounting data and was down for one month.
- Continued turnover in staff is being controlled.
- 2009 Budgets passed and entered on MIP.
- Deficit covered through efforts of the entire AST staff and Executive Committee.
- Completed a Strategic Plan.
- Recruited a Human Resources Director/Manager.

MIS Accomplishments

- Upgraded the email server from Scalix to Exchange.
- Replaced an outdated server.
- Replaced some of the old existing routers.
- Moved lines to OEH's new location in the duplex on campus.

Procurement Accomplishments

- Created a Corporate cell phone/account.
- Remodeling is occurring to add additional staff person.
-
- Requiring programs to seek pre-approval and encumber costs before purchases are made.

Human Resources Accomplishments

- Developed a less expensive insurance plan resulting in a savings of approximately \$320,000.00 annually by a joint effort of Procurement and the Executive Committee.
- I-9's updated for staff and contractors.
- W-4's updated for staff.
- Improved customer service by returning phone calls promptly.

Issues Finance is working on

- Clean up and catch up of the 2008 accounting.
- Preparing for the 2008 Audit.
- Clean up and catch up of the 2008 payroll accounting.
- Provide more in-house training on MIP and Policy and Procedures to staff.

Thank you and if you have any questions, please call: Patricia Buckley, Controller 405-275-4030, Ext.175 or Assistant Controller, Belinda Collins 405-275-4030, Ext.162.

Secretary's office:

- The Title VI program initiated an employee lunch program with the extra funds being used to cover the end of the year deficit within the Title VI budget. This ensures General funds aren't used.
- Activities are being created for the elders so that they may come and enjoy visiting with other elders. This month we have scheduled Dominoes and Bingo at Tecumseh square. This is in conjunction with elders being provided a nutritious meal and having access to a nutritionist from the Health department who will advise on better nutrition.
- This month Isaac Gibson, a new and well qualified individual, became the Supervisor of the Maintenance Department.
- Maintenance continues its remodeling process to open a clothes closet and eventually a food bank to help Tribal citizens who are still in need of assistance for food or clothing. This will work through a referral system from other departments within the tribe. Volunteers will be needed to help set this up so if you would like to volunteer your time please contact the Secretary's office.
- The Maintenance Department has completed renovating the new offices for OEH. Therefore the new OEH office's have moved south of the police station into the Duplex's.

These are just a few of the things my office is working on and I anticipate there will be more to update on in the next issue.

Thanks to all the Maintenance and Title VI workers for being dedicated in getting their jobs done during the ice storm.




ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA Current Job Openings:

Current Open Positions

<http://www.atribe.com/Employment.html>

(Job descriptions will be available online)

- ASEDA - Chief Executive Officer
- Gaming Commission - Internal Auditor
- Gaming Commission - Surveillance Technician
- Gaming Commission - Surveillance Operator
- Supreme Court Tribal Judge
- Patrol Officer - AST Tribal Police Dept
- Maintenance/Housekeeping (Health Program)
- Counselor/Therapist (Behavioral Health)
- Coordinator Tribal Youth Program (Family Services)
- ICW Director (Indian Child Welfare)
- Realty Specialist
- IT Analyst- MIS
- Driver/Maintenance - Title VI

 **VOTE
ABSENTEE
BALLOT
PAGE 14**

Primary Election March 21, 2009

The following candidates will be placed on the ballot for the Primary Election to be held on Saturday, March 21, 2009.

Polling sites will be:	AST Police Department 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, Ok (AST Complex)	Little Axe Resource Center 1970 156th Ave N.E. Norman, Ok (Little Axe, Ok)
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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Governor Scott Miller George Blanchard Anthony David Johnson Betty Mahardy Watson	Secretary Michelle Lopez
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ELECTION COMMITTEE

Deputy Commissioner Augustine Johnson	Commission Member #1 Shirley Adkins
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**Absentee Ballot request form on
Page 14.**



Candidate for Governor Scott Miller

Ho wa se li si mi mo gi ke li ko
te yi ke wa!

My name is Scott Miller and I am announcing my candidacy for Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. My wife, Aly and I reside in the Shawnee area with our sons Connor and Brody. I have served the Tribe for four years in the offices of Secretary, Lieutenant Governor,

and Governor. Prior to serving as an elected official, my tribal experience was as our Cultural Preservation Director, an Acquisition and Disposal Specialist for the Sac & Fox Realty Department; Risk Management Specialist and I developed a loan program at the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority. All were valuable experiences that led me to run for tribal office in 2005.

During the past four years, I have experienced both positive and negative happenings with our Tribe. I have seen disruption of services and fragmentation of the Executive Committee during changes in administration. I have experienced unity and teamwork such as with the current Executive Committee under my administration as Governor. There is no doubt our Tribe has seen troubled times, but those times are changing for the better. During a short period of time, the Tribe has gone from the fear of major cuts in programs to a balanced conservative budget that continues to provide services to our tribal citizens. Throughout the tough times our Tribe faced, my goal has always been to make sure we can take care of our tribal citizens the best we can.

We are now pursuing more grants opportunities and alternative sources of funding to supplement our programs, which is something we have not done in several years. Our program directors and employees now feel empowered to provide welcomed input on bettering programs and services, as well as providing additional services. The atmosphere and image of the Tribe is changing and the world beyond our Tribe is noticing the positive progress we are making.

A lot has been said about change and hope on the National level and we are no different. It is ok for us to have hope because without hope, we would have nothing to work toward. In order for us to realize our hopes, a change must take place and that change has already begun through the efforts of our current Executive Committee. We have begun to reconsider the way we handle the issues facing the Tribe through discussion to come to solutions. There is hope in progressing the Tribe through open minds and ideas not through closed doors. The old way of tribal politics with internal fighting and disrupting services and programs is going away right before our eyes. Our Tribe can no longer afford to elect individuals who are destructive with hidden agendas and operate as a kingdom instead of a democracy. Our Tribe needs to elect individuals who can work together for the benefit of the whole Tribe.

Since becoming Governor, our Tribe has had a number of accomplishments. A good number of projects are in progress, some have been completed, and some are beginning the construction phase.

- ◆ Hired Thunderbird Casino General Manager and Assistant General Manager, who have orchestrated the stabilization and generation of increased revenue and profit of Thunderbird Casino.
- ◆ Worked with gaming vendor to get capital injection to Thunderbird.
- ◆ Opened the Shawnee Medicaid Clinic in August, 2008.
- ◆ Re-opened the Absentee Shawnee Dental Clinic at Little Axe in August, 2008.
- ◆ Awarded IHS Joint Venture Project. One of two awarded in the Nation.
- ◆ Obtaining alternative construction funding for Joint Venture with Executive Committee approval.
- ◆ Created a Tribal Health Authority to oversee the Health Programs.
- ◆ Opened a new fitness area at the Tribal Complex.
- ◆ Began construction of Building Blocks 2 at the Tribal Complex 2009.
- ◆ Increased Absentee Shawnee Police man power to provide 24 hour coverage.
- ◆ Obtained the first K-9 Unit for the Tribe (at not cost).
- ◆ Received 2nd Equipment Grant to provide vehicles, uniforms, laptop computers, and other equipment needed to provide law enforcement services.
- ◆ Re-established the Absentee Shawnee Reserve Officer program.
- ◆ Hosting Tribe's first CLEET Reserve police officer basic academy.
- ◆ Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority to provide more complete law enforcement services to tribal citizens and funding for police department.
- ◆ Renewed cross-deputation with Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office.
- ◆ Opening of a Police Department Sub-station in Little Axe next to Absentee Shawnee Convenience Store.
- ◆ Currently in progressive talks with Cleveland County Sheriff's Office in reference to cross-deputation.
- ◆ Updated Absentee Shawnee Police Standard Operating Procedures.
- ◆ In the Final stage of Cross-commission with Lake Thunderbird State Park Rangers.
- ◆ Future goal to establish a Cleveland County Division of the ASTPD for 24 hour coverage.

As we look forward, our Tribe has the potential to develop new economic opportunities through ASED and partnerships with other tribes in Oklahoma. We have been fortunate and the doors of opportunity have been opening over this past year. Although economic times are tough, we have endured during this time and continue to improve one day at a time.

I am asking for your vote and support on Saturday, March 21, 2009 as we continue to change and make a better future for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ne Yi Wa!

Candidate for Governor George Blanchard



AH-HO HI-LI-KO-QA?

Hello Fellow tribal members:

As you remember from my announcement to run for the office of Governor of our tribe, I promised to try and make decisions for ALL of our people, not just a few people.

In this regard, I will do my best to address the issue of accountability of the use of fluid funds, I.E., travel expenses, seminars, conferences, trips, equipment, etc., petty cash, expenditures, etc. This kind of program can only be successful if the disbursement of funds is not only highly regulated, but also reported in a public manner. If elected to the position of Governor, I will lead by example in these matters. It is my belief that money being spent is the tribe's money, and all tribal members should be aware of when and where their money is being spent, and what the tribe will gain from the expenditure. These are my thoughts and goals for this month. More to come, and as always, your questions and opinions are welcome at any time. You can contact me at 405-706-2685. I urge each and every tribal member to vote on MARCH 21, 2009 at Shawnee or Little Axe, or by Absentee vote. I would appreciate your votes in my favor.

Respectfully, George Blanchard

Candidate for Governor Anthony Johnson



As a candidate for Governor, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Anthony David Johnson, also known as "frog." My wife Diana Kay (D.K.) and I reside east of Norman. We have been blessed with two children; Christie Johnson-Pack and Anthony D Johnson Jr. "Tad" and six grandchildren. My parents are the late Henry Lee Johnson and Zelma Deere, who taught me to speak our language fluently and to respect

and participate in our tribal religion and customs.

I have served my country in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam where I was awarded a bronze star. I am Retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and recently have been contracting in the field of communications.

Various issues (not limited to):

- Accountability
- Benefits and Services
- Common sense approach to new business ventures
- Improve existing programs
- Efficient and cost effective government

Every Candidate for office has the same basic intentions for good government, as with myself. The difference is the approach to getting the job done. Taking a common sense approach to business solutions is essential. In order for our Tribe to move forward we must be able to maintain and manage our existing programs and businesses. By establishing a better foundation and improving on these programs will ensure that we are able to seek additional opportunities for growth. This being said, I do not think our Tribe should become stagnant but instead establish a solid business plan.

My work experience and military background have provided me the meaning of dedication and loyalty to serve with compassion, honesty, integrity and teamwork. I have served my country and now it is time to step up and serve my Tribe.

Please accept this open invitation to discuss tribal business and/or myself.

Anthony David Johnson
Home Phone: 405-329-5375
E-mail: FrogForGov@aol.com
MySpace: FrogForGov

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Community Outreach

When: The 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Where: Little Axe Resource Center

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

There will be a Social Service Representative there to take applications for LIHEAP, General Assistance, Tribal Energy Assistance.

We will also have Domestic Violence, Brownsfield Job Training Program Applications and Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority applications and Clothing Allowance Forms.

For any questions, please feel free to call our office at 405-275-4030 extension 142.

www.astribe.com



Candidate for Governor Betty Lou Mahardy Watson

My name is Betty Lou Mahardy Watson and I have filed as a candidate for Governor of our Tribe. My parents, now deceased, are Harry B. Mahardy and Lillie M. Sloan Mahardy Ellis. My step-father was John L. Ellis, Sr. and my grandfather was Frank Sloan. I have two sisters and one brother, Evelyn Mahardy Johnson and Roy Mahardy,

both deceased, and Virginia Mahardy Sutton. And I have two sons, Michael and Brian. I grew up in a very strict Shawnee household and taught to honor and respect our elders, our Shawnee ways, and our heritage and to be proud of being a Shawnee. These values I carry in my heart today.

I have thought long and hard in making my decision to run for Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. This decision was not taken lightly and I spent hours of deliberation and prayers in deciding to do this. I analyzed where the Tribe is today and where we are headed in the future. I thought about our future generations, your children, your grandchildren, your great grandchildren and our elders and what is in store for our people. I have tried to think positive and see the progress of our Tribe during the past 20 years and have seen very little progress, but I have seen our tribal government lose the people's trust. My mission statement is **"to restore your faith and trust in our tribal government and to conduct the business of the tribe with accountability and transparency"**.

I cannot emphasize enough that the stakes are very high for the future of our Tribe. Our finances are in a state of emergency, just like the national economy. Our Tribal government has not been responsible in taking care of our affairs and has made some bad business decisions concerning the financial future for our people. One cannot single out a particular person or administration to blame, as we all share in the blame by not holding certain individuals responsible. They did not plan for other business or commercial projects to generate income for our Tribe other than the casino and because of the highly competitive casino gaming market that exists today, we do not realize the income that we once relied upon to support our tribal programs.

I have over 35 years of experience in working with Native American governments throughout Indian country as a consultant and I have been a business owner of an independent oil & gas company, home construction company, industrial and oil & gas chemical company and an owner of a successful thoroughbred breeding, training and racing stable operating in Arkansas, Oklahoma and Arizona. I have worked for tribes as a consultant in oil & gas, sand & gravel, gaming financing, economic development, taxation, land into trust, government contracting and financing of various economic development projects. In addition, I have negotiated agreements with various governmental entities, cities, counties, and states in behalf of tribes. I have the experience, knowl-

edge and wisdom to represent you as your Governor.

MY PLATFORM IS SIMPLE, BUT IT TAKES THE OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO MAKE IT WORK. IF ELECTED, I WILL DO MY BEST TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO:

1. Above all, uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Tribe and honor the wishes of the General Council. I will keep the General Council informed of major decisions affecting the Tribe and conduct the business of the tribe with accountability and transparency.
2. Create business opportunities through ASEDA, (the economic development arm of the Tribe), that will generate income and jobs for the Tribe. Develop an effective land use plan that will utilize the land the Tribe owns and develop for the highest and best use. Assist tribal members to become entrepreneurs, businessmen and businesswomen.
3. Evaluate and improve present services the tribe receives from federal and state funding for tribal members in areas of education, housing, health care, social services, elders program and aid to children. Expand these services to all tribal members regardless of where they live.
4. Provide training for the most valuable asset the Tribe has, the young leaders in our Tribe to learn about tribal government, tribal sovereignty, legal issues concerning land, water, taxation, Indian law and all areas of casino management. By providing this training, the future leaders of the Tribe will be ready to accept the tremendous responsibilities as elected officials to manage the affairs of our tribal government, with assets that will grow with time to multi-million dollar companies that will be owned and operated by the Tribe.
5. Promote and assist our talented young athletes, artists, performers and scholars to gain recognition and to help them realize their goals, ambitions and dreams.
6. Promote and develop new gaming proposals for the Tribe. Use casino revenues to support tribal government, economic development and per capita payments to all members of the Tribe.

We cannot afford to continue to elect individuals who do not have the experience, wisdom and knowledge to run our government and make decisions for our Tribe. **If you want change and a new direction for our Tribe, vote for me, Betty Mahardy Watson on March 21. Your vote can make a difference. If you are not able to come to the polls and vote, please request an Absentee Ballot form from the Election Commission 20 days prior to the day of the Election.**

I will be visiting with many of you and sharing my ideas and would love to hear your ideas, your concerns and issues concerning our Tribe and how we can improve. Your thoughts and ideas are important to me and I would like to hear from you, my cell number is 405-821-6304. Or, you can write to me: 1050 E. 2nd Street, Box 182, Edmond, OK 73034. Thank you!

**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2008
EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

E-AS-2009-1

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA RESCINDING EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION NO. AS-92-138, WHICH APPROVES FEES FOR SUPREME COURT JUSTICES; DISTRICT COURT JUDGES AND SPECIAL JUDGES AND AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING JUDICIAL PAY AT A RATE OF FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$500.00) PER JUDICIAL DAY, DEFINED AS REGULAR SCHEDULED DOCKETS OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL COURT AND SUPREME COURT AND A RATE OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$250.00) FOR WORK PERFORMED DURING SPECIAL COURT DOCKETS AND FOR JUDICIAL MEETINGS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009- 1 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called meeting held on January 21, 2009, there being a quorum present, by vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent, Secretary Lopez: Yes, Treasurer Chisholm: Yes, Representative Onzawah: Yes, Governor Miller's vote, if required, N/A.

E-AS-2009-2

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATION OF THE MEMBERSHIP ROLL OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA AT 3046 MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009- 2 be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called meeting held on January 21, 2009, there being a quorum present, by vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent, Secretary Lopez: Yes, Treasurer Chisholm: Yes, Representative Onzawah: Yes, Governor Miller's vote, if required, N/A.

**For a complete printed copy of any resolution, you may contact the Secretary's office and request for one.
(405) 275--4030**

*Congratulations to
Lancelot Priemeaux
&
Eunice Creek*

*They were married on
December 2, 2008
at the A&T Courthouse and wanted
to announce this happy occasion to
friends and relative.*

**WANT FREE TAX SERVICE?
FREE E-FILING?**

Of course you do. Volunteer attorneys, staff and law students will be available at the following times and places to professionally prepare your federal and state tax returns and e-file them, all at no cost to you.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex
Building 3 (Treasurer's Offices)
9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Monday, February 23, 200
Monday, March 2, 2009
Monday, March 9, 2009
Monday, March 16, 2009
Monday, March 23, 2009
Monday, March 30, 2009

Just bring to the site all your tax documents: W-2's, 1099's, childcare provider information, driver's license(s)/photo id(s), social security cards (copies are acceptable), and any other documents you think may be necessary to prepare your taxes. Copies of your 2008 tax returns would be helpful, but not required. If you want refunds deposited in your checking or savings accounts, we need the bank routing and account numbers.

**Sponsored by: Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.**

*Any information needed, please contact the
Treasurer's office at 405-275-4030*

**Job Postings for
the Absentee Shawnee Tribe are
posted on our website weekly.
Applications and other forms also
available online.
Check it out!
www.astribe.com**

The Absentee Shawnee News is published monthly by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and is mailed free, one per address, to enrolled Tribal members. Additional subscriptions to non-tribal members and organizations are available for \$12 annually. We welcome letters to the editor, comments and submissions but reserve the right to limit printing based upon available space. *The Absentee Shawnee News* also reserves the right to refuse publication of letters to the editor. Editorials and letters must be signed and include an address or phone number to be considered for publishing. Editorial statements and letters to the editor published in this newspaper contain the opinions of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor of *The Absentee Shawnee News* or any elected official or department of tribal government or administration. **(The deadline for submissions is the 4th Wednesday of each month. All submissions that miss this posted deadline will be printed in the next issue if possible).** Reprint permission is granted with prior approval and publication credit to *The Absentee Shawnee News*. All correspondence should be directed to:

**Sharon Shawnee, Communications Director
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
or Call (405) 598-1279
e-mail: mediadept@astribe.com**

**We have moved to a new location.
219 E. Walnut
Tecumseh, Ok 74873**



Thunderbird Casino Update

2008 was a year that we faced and overcame many challenges at Thunderbird Casino. When Drew and I joined the team at Thunderbird in late January 2008 we began the task of outlining the problems and developing a plan to make Thunderbird profitable once again. Thunderbird has faced many challenges in recent times. After many years of prosperity, a drastic increase in Thunderbird's competition dealt a devastating blow to the Casino. In response to this increased competition the Casino did not reposition itself to be competitive in this market. This led to an unnecessary decrease in revenues and was the beginning of major problems that finally resulted in the Casino's inability to pay its Tribal gaming taxes and other bills as they became due.

In order to try to save the Casino from having to close the doors, marketing, advertising, promotions, and personnel budgets were either cut or all together eliminated. The Casino was left under staffed and drowning in a sea of bills and a quickly declining revenue stream. There was an insufficient amount of funds in the Casino vault to cover wagers placed and won. The facilities were in desperate need of update and repair due to lack of funds for upkeep. Continued failures with a computer system that operates the slot machines created frustrations with our remaining loyal customers. Many vendors were 120+ days past due and ready to pick up the slot machines for non-payment. These are just a few of the problems that started with a decrease in business due to increased competition and snowballed into a series of problems that almost closed the doors at Thunderbird.

With the help of an insightful Executive Committee, support-

ive Board of Directors and a great core staff at the Casino, we were able to begin tackling these problems immediately upon our arrival at Thunderbird. We hired and trained enough people to adequately staff the Casino. We contacted the vendors to work out arrangements to pay off past due accounts. We worked with Governor Miller and a gaming vendor to raise capital that allowed us to replenish the cash in the vault and the bank. We also developed a marketing campaign that brought the customers in and created an entertaining atmosphere focused on customer service that kept them coming back.

Thunderbird's recovery was not made any easier with the skyrocketing gas prices early in 2008 and the economic decline that started later in the year and still continues. However, despite these additional challenges we began generating a steady revenue stream and increased profits that allowed us to put almost \$500,000.00 in capital improvements at the Casino and pay over \$1,900,000.00 in taxes to the Tribe during the year.

Although we have made great strides in the turnaround of Thunderbird Casino we believe these are just the first steps in positioning the Casino to continue to increase its profitability and support of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Many more improvements are scheduled for 2009 and we are looking forward to many years of success. As always, we welcome your questions, you can e-mail us at kurtw@shawneecasinos.com or dreww@shawneecasinos.com or call us at 405-360-9270.

Respectfully,
J. Kurt Williams & S. Drew Word
Thunderbird Casino

AST Promotion day at Thunderbird Casino is the last Friday of the month and tribal member's must show their CDIB card at the player's club desk. Pay \$10 and get \$20 in slot play! 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ONLY


Thunderbird Casino's
December
Employee of the month
was Justin Gibson
Congratulations!


Thunderbird Casino's
January
Employee of the month
was Margo Wahpakeche
Congratulations!

February 2009							New Machines!!! New Ways to Win!!!	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
1 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	2 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	3 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	4 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	5 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm NOVA Gaming Bonus Hot Seats 11am-1pm	6 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	7 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage		
8 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	9 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	10 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	11 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	12 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm NOVA Gaming Bonus Hot Seats 11am-1pm	13 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	14 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am JUST THE TWO OF US Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am		
15 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	16 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	17 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	18 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	19 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm NOVA Gaming Bonus Hot Seats 11am-1pm	20 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	21 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage		
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Management has the right to change or cancel any promotion.

Happy Birthday To All Tribal Members Born In *February*

*Happy Birthday
Amy Beth
Feb 19th
From your family*

*Happy Birthday
To my Beautiful nieces
Chele Womack and Stephanie Geissler
Have a wonderful day!
Love Aunt Rhonda*



*Happy Birthday &
Happy Valentines Day
Maru
Love you, Sherry*

**Happy Birthday
Brent Watson**
From the Kaseca's

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
GRANDMA PAULINE JOHNSON
WE LOVE YOU!
ROBERT & CHRISTIE**

**Happy Birthday
Janice Lena**
From Darrol and Lorrie

*Happy Birthday
And Happy Valentines Day
To the best MOM Ever!
Velma Blanchard
We Love You Very Much!
From
Marvin and Sherry*

**Happy Birthday
To our favorite Uncle
Marvin Smith**
from your heathens
Sebastian & Christian



**Happy 8th Birthday
Paige Gibson**
We love you!
Uncle Marvin & Mama Seal

Happy Birthday Marv
From Shawn & Marilyn

**Happy 1st Birthday
Jocelyn "Baby Sister" Hayes!!!**
Love,
Mommy, Daddy & Bubba

**Happy Birthday
Bart**
Feb 22nd
From Marvin & Sherry

**Happy Birthday
Gogooch
Uncle Marv
Paige Nicole
Lanayah
Bart**

**We love you all so much!
The Shawnee's**

**Happy Birthday
Great-Grandma Pauline Johnson**
Love you,
Brandon, Trace, Camryn & Kristyn

Happy Birthday!
Paul Brian
from the Johnson-Pack family

Happy Birthday Mom
There are no words that can explain
how much I love you, You are truly
my hero and you give all of us kids
and your grandkids so much love
back - in many ways.
Your daughter - Sharon

**Happy Birthday
Mom**
Love,
D.K & Dave

**Happy Birthday
Denia**
From Kristyn and Camryn

We Wish You A Happy Birthday
Janice Lena
From Coondog & Hotdog

Happy Birthday Kylakay
From Kristyn and Camryn

**Happy Birthday
Cleta**
From the Johnson-Pack Family

**Happy Birthday
Marvin**
From Darrol & Lorrie

**Happy Valentines Day
To all my family**
Love Rhonda Kaseca

Editor's Note: Because of Privacy Issues and Potential Identity Theft, we can no longer print a list of Birthdays each month.

~ In Memoriam ~

William Squire

1929-2008



William Squire passed away on a Sunday evening, December 28, 2008.

He was born in Shawnee, Okla., and raised on the homestead east of Shawnee, known as the "curve" in the country. On Feb. 1, 1954, he married Darby Marie Foreman in Shawnee. His parents were Sage and Bessie Squire.

William also known as "Grandpa" was always in good spirits, even when he was feeling bad. He was always talking about the old days or into his favorite pastime, watching T.V. which was the western station or drinking his favorite drink "Dr. Pepper." Two of his favorite western movies stars were Audie Murphy and Gene Autry.

He was always doing lawn work or shining his car which he was proud of. One of Dad's long time friends, Russell Means, sent his heartfelt sympathy, many have seen him in the movie "Last of the Mohicans."

Dad was also a decorated war veteran, he was awarded the "Occupation Medal (Japan); Korean Service Medal with five bronze stars; and the United Nations Service Medal. He was stationed at Camp Carson Colorado before he was sent to the war.

Dad was the elder of the Squire Family which he had four brothers and three sisters, which combined for a large family with all the nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He will be greatly missed by our family that loved him dearly, and think of him everyday. The grandchildren that sat with him daily enjoy watching T.V.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; two sons, William John Squire and Carl Raymond Squire; one brother and three sisters.

Survivors include son, Billie Squire of Shawnee; daughters, Sharon Harjo of Shawnee and Rania Mauldin of McCloud; stepsons, Burton Thomas Harjo of Sapulpa and Sammy Harjo

of Norman; 17 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren; brothers, Marvin Squire of Glenpool, Thomas Squire of Sapulpa, and Jerry Squire of Sapulpa; numerous nieces, nephews and other family members.

Tribal service were officiated by Wayne Wilson and George Blanchard. He was layed to rest at the Clark-Squire family cemetery.

We would like to thank all those that helped in our time of need. William Squire

1929-2008

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We would like to thank all those that helped in our time of need.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Grocery & Smokeshop

Open **EVERYDAY!**

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

- Ice Cold Drinks • Gasoline
- Fishing/Camping/Boating Supplies
- Fast Food • Cigarettes/Cigars
- Chewing Tobacco • Ice Cold Beer

(405) 364-0668

15730 E State Hwy 9
Norman, Oklahoma
Next to Thunderbird Casino

Two Great
Locations!

AST SMOKESHOP IN HARRAH, OK

Come in or Drive thru?

Smoking Lounge inside

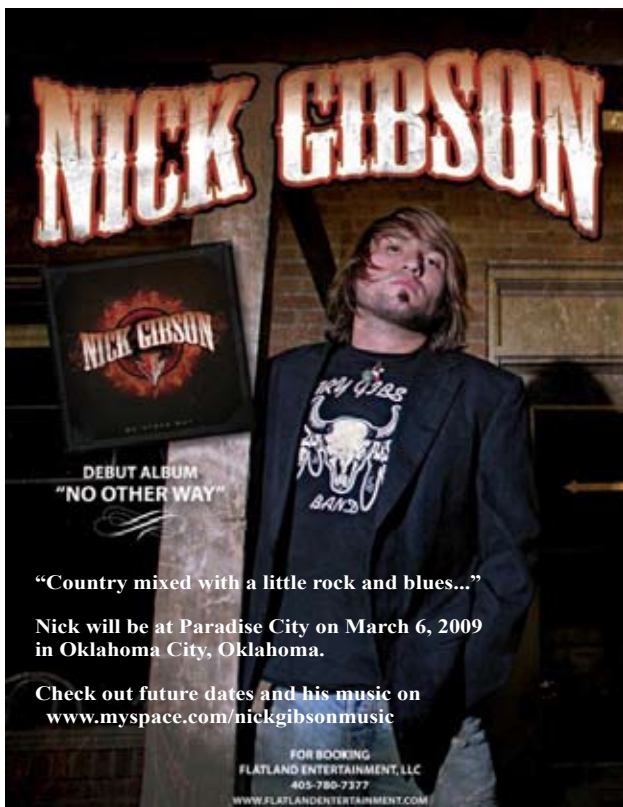
Cigars • Cigarettes • Chewing Tobacco
Other Tobacco Products!
Coffee • Soft Drinks • Smoking Lounge

Monday - Saturday 7 am. to 7 pm
Sunday 10 am to 3 pm

Drive Thru Open Until 9 pm

19857 NE 23rd • (405) 454-0055
Harrah, Oklahoma

Entertainment at it's best...



NICK GIBSON

DEBUT ALBUM
"NO OTHER WAY"

"Country mixed with a little rock and blues..."

Nick will be at Paradise City on March 6, 2009
in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Check out future dates and his music on
www.myspace.com/nickgibsonmusic

FOR BOOKING
FLATLAND ENTERTAINMENT, LLC
405-780-7377
WWW.FLATLANDENTERTAINMENT.COM

THOMAS "THUNDERKICK" LONGACRE

Check out his future fights and get more info about him at:

www.myspace.com/teamthunder08 or www.myspace.com/tkick1



Apollo's Karate Presents
COLLISION COURSE

THOMAS THUNDERKICK LONGACRE

SPECIAL GUEST
GEORGES ST-PIERRE

MARCH 6TH
SpiritBank
EVENT CENTER

TICKETS 918-627-7070

Healthy Lifestyle workshops encourages students

Community Health & Prevention sponsored a workshop titled "Winter Awakening" held December 23rd at the Little Axe Resource Center. Citizens of federally recognized tribes from grades 6-12 were invited to participate in the event geared toward promoting healthy lifestyles.

Nationally renowned American Indian artists and motivational speakers Happy and Brian Frejo were special guest for this event. Happy and her younger brother Quese are a part of "Culture Shock Camp" founded by their older brother Brian.



Brian and Happy interact with students during a workshop session which included playing games.

Two of the most well intended workshops included "I Rock Hip Hop" and "Youth Theatre". Happy and Brian conduct the workshops as an avenue to reach out to young people.

Workshop topics included diabetes, violence, alcoholism, and self-esteem. After a full-day of workshops, participants treated parents and community members to a showcase of their new dance moves and a theatrical performance.

A good time was had by all and their department looks forward to conducting more programming for youth in the future said Regina Grass, Director, Community Health & Prevention.



www.myspace.com/happysoulproject
www.happyfrejo.com

www.myspace.com/cultureshockcamp
or email: bfrejowst@yahoo.com



Spring Youth Camp 2009



Location: AST complex

Time: March 16-20, 2009(M-F)

8:00-5:00

Ages: 1st-12th grade

Limit: 50 participants

Transportation: Little Axe-area students will be transported to complex. The bus will leave @ 8:00 A.M. sharp.

Camp to include: Cultural activities
Youth prevention activities
Physical fitness activities

Registration: Register up 'til March 6, 2009

Contact Cultural Preservation department to register @ 275-4030

Note: All registered participants must come by Cultural Preservation to fill out registration, liability release and rule forms. (Registration packets may be filled out March 9-13).



The following Absentee Ballot request form is for the Primary Election to be held March 21, 2009.

PLEASE fill out EACH BLANK completely and return by the Deadline.

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST

I, _____, hereby certify that I am or will be an Eligible Voter of
(Print Name)
the Absentee Shawnee Tribe on or before March 21, 2009. I cannot physically be present to cast
my Vote at the **March 21, 2009 Primary Election**, therefore, I am requesting an Absentee Ballot
be mailed to me at the following address.

Name (please print): _____
(First) (Middle) (Maiden) (Last)

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

CDIB#: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All **REQUEST** must be **returned as soon as possible**
or by March 1, 2009

Return this Form to:

Absentee Shawnee Election Commission
P.O. Box 741
Tecumseh, OK 74873

All eligible voters are entitled to vote, either at the Polls or by Absentee Ballot.

For your convenience - This request may be duplicated

ELECTION COMMISSION USE ONLY

Received: _____ Approved: _____ Dissapproved: _____

If Disapproved (reason): _____

Denial Letter Mailed: _____ Ballot Mailed: _____

Election Commission/Representative

Tribal Elders Organization Meeting

*Saturday
February 21, 2009*

10:00 a.m.

*Tecumseh Square Center
All Tribal Elders Welcome*

VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Location - Title VI Bldg

**John Vanderburg, Coordinator of Veteran's Affairs
Located in Bldg 2
(405) 275-4030 ext. 205**



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA TITLE VI PROGRAM

The AST Title VI program provides a nutritional meal five days a week and also provide supportive services to Tribal affiliated member 55 or older whom live in the jurisdiction.

Requirements for the Title VI program

- 55 years or older
- CDIB card from a federally recognized tribe

Title VI has two meal sites, one which is located on the Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex in Bldg 9 and the other site is located at the Little Axe Resource Center in Little Axe.

Title VI works closely with the Diabetes and Wellness staff to assist Tribal Elders with Education, Nutrition, Health Services and screening to better provide for the Elders.

If you have any questions, you can contact me @ 275-4030 ext. 169.
Yvette Moore, Title VI Coordinator




menu subject to change

2% milk served daily

February 2009

**not going to be home
call us @ 275-4030 ext 169
or notify your driver**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Weenies & Kraut Mac & Chez Peas Apricots	3 Chop Roast w/ Gravy Rice Carrots & Peas Cupcake	4 Enchilada Casserole Refried Beans Spanish Rice Jell-O	5 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Veggie Soup Pudding w/ Oreos	6 Scrambled Eggs Sausage Pattie Toast	7
8	9 Salmon Patties Coleslaw Mixed Veggies Plums	10 Steak Strips w/ bell peppers & onions Greenbeans Bread Cherry Cobbler	11 Fried Chicken Mashed Pot./Gravy Corn Roll/ Pineapples	12 Pimento chez Sandwich Tom. Soup Cookie Sack Lunch for 13th	13 Health Fair Lunch & Bingo @ Tecumseh Square 11am	14 
15	16 President's Day AST CLOSED	17 Polish Sausage Cabbage Shells & Tom. Sliced Bread Fruit Cocktail	18 Roast New Pot. Okra Roll Salad Bar Apple crisp	19 Ham Melts Baked Chips Pork n Beans Fluff Sack Lunch for 20th	20 Domino Tournament 11 am Sack Lunch Tecumseh Square	21
22	23 Cheeseburger Pot. Salad Chips Peaches	24 Pinto Beans w/Ham Coleslaw Skillet Bread Salad Bar/Pears	25 Chicken Dumplings Broc & Chez Beets Choc. Cake	26 Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Chicken Noodle Soup Cheesecake	27 Biscuits Gravy Bacon Juice	28

It's American Heart Month



Physical inactivity is a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, and most Americans are not physically active enough to gain any health benefits. Swimming, cycling, jogging, skiing, aerobic dancing, walking or many other activities can help your heart. Whether it's included in a structured exercise program or part of your daily routine, all physical activity adds up to a healthier heart. Here are some ideas to help you get started.

When you are at home:

Go out for a short walk before breakfast, after dinner or both. Start with 5-10 minutes and work up to 30 minutes. Walk the dog.

When you are at work:

Come by the Wi Si Ka To Wi Wellness Center or the Little Axe Resource Center to exercise during a break. Walk down the hall (or to another building) to speak with someone rather than using the telephone. Walk around your building for a break during the work day or during lunch.

For recreation:

Make a date with a friend to enjoy your favorite physical activities. Do them regularly. Participate in or start a recreation league. Participate in activities that increase your heart rate (brisk walking, jogging, sports)

AST Diabetes Wellness Staff

(Information provided by the American Heart Association)
[www.americanheart.org]

Foster Parents Needed!!!

Can you open your home and heart for a foster child.? Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children in crisis. Foster parents are partners with child welfare workers, lawyers and judges. It is not for everyone but if you have it in your heart - we need you.

- Can you love and care for a child who comes from a difficult background?
- Can you help a child develop a sense of belonging?
- Are you secure in yourself & your parenting Skills?
- Can you maintain a positive attitude toward a child's parents?
- **Can you love with all your heart & then let go?**

Many children need a loving home and a family to help them through a very tough time. Please think about it and talk with your family before you become a foster home. They all need safe, supportive environments!

If you find yourself and your family interested in Foster Care, please contact
Melissa Lopez
405-275-4030 ext. 166.



Winter Is here and so is the cold weather!

Here are some tips to help you stay fit and warm:

- ❖ Exercise at the Resource Center or the Wi Si Ka To Wi Wellness Center- We provide equipment at our indoor facilities to help you stay fit and warm. Our fitness staff can provide a variety of exercise routines made available to you by the Diabetes and Wellness Program. Come out and enjoy staying fit with the staff and other fitness members.
- ❖ Walk at the mall- Get out and enjoy a brisk walk around the mall. Walking at the mall not only has exercise benefits but also allows you to meet new people.
- ❖ Shop- Everyone likes to shop. Shopping around town helps to keep your body moving so get out and finish your Christmas shopping.
- ❖ Dive to an indoor pool- Swimming is a great exercise to keep your muscles and joints moving. Many facilities have indoor heated swimming pools that will keep you warm during your swim.
- ❖ Use your exercise equipment- Dust off that exercise equipment and pull those fitness bands and a fitness ball out of the closet. If you currently do not have a fitness band then stop by the AST Resource Center and pick up a free band. Try using your fitness equipment in front of the television so you can watch your favorite television program while exercising.

If you're prone to exercise-induced asthma, then consult with a doctor about your current condition. Try wearing a face mask or a scarf over your mouth in cold weather. This helps to warm the air that enters your lungs which can help prevent breathing problems. Exercise can also help prevent winter depression, improve your mood, increase your energy level and help you sleep better. Try to set aside 30 minutes or more on most days of the week for physical activity.

For more information about the AST fitness facilities please call 364-7569

AST Diabetes Wellness Staff



Parenting Class Every Wednesday evening

For the next 8 weeks

6:00 pm to 8:00 PM

At the AST Complex

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive

Shawnee, OK 74801

Basement of Building #3

Baby sitting provided * Snacks provided

LITTLE AXE AREA

Every Thursday

MARCH 19, 2009 TO MAY 21, 2009

10:00 A.M. TO 12:00

LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER

Call Jackie Denny at (405)275-4030 ext. 195

For more information

Classes are free to ast enrolled members and parents of AST enrolled members.

\$50.00 for non-ast enrolled members
(Payment arrangement can be made)

Gibson receives keys to new home

By Laverne Douglas



l to r: Gov. Scott Miller, Dennis Burks, Kenny Jones pictured with Loretta Gibson in her new home.

Tribal citizen Loretta Gibson accepts the keys to her new mobile home in Norman, Okla., Friday Jan. 16.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Gov. Scott Miller had the honor of turning the keys over to the pleased recipient. The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering housing director Kenny Jones and construction coordinator Dennis Burks, who were instrumental in acquiring the home, also attended the event.

This was Gibson's first time seeing her new resi-

dence. Her new home was furnished with living room, dining room, bedroom furniture, and kitchen appliances. While the home was being set up she was accommodated with a hotel stay nearby.

"I'm sure going to appreciate this house," Gibson said.

Gibson's new home was made available as part of the allotment of unused mobile homes provided to the Absentee Shawnee Tribe under the Authority of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Jones said the tribe originally received an allotment of 12 mobile homes; however, additional units could be received at a later date.

Jones said the tribe is using this opportunity to help some of its tribal citizens that don't qualify for other housing programs. Tribal citizens who qualify must reimburse the cost associated with moving the unit from Hope, Ark., to the desired location and setup costs such as electricity, plumbing, and water.

The reimbursement payment schedule will be over a 36 month period. FEMA does not impose a fee for the mobile homes.

For more information on the mobile homes and how you can receive one please visit the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) or call 405-214-4235. New location of the OEHE office is the brown duplex building south of the AST Police Department on the AST complex.

"Hi-Ke-Si-Nwi-To-Wa?"

Do you know how to speak Shawnee?

Come one, come all fluent Speakers!

Nominate a fluent speaker of the Shawnee LANGUAGE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Age _____

Please mail or return this form to the office of the tribal Representative Alecia Onzawahwah.

The deadline for the nominations will need to be turned in by Thursday, April 9, 2009.

Those persons who are fluent speakers of the Shawnee Language that have been nominated will be honored during a community dinner held on April 25, 2009 at the Tecumseh Square at 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Cultural Preservation Department



SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU



Little Axe Clinic • Dental Arts Clinic
 15702 E. Hwy 9
 Norman, Oklahoma 73026
 Phone: (405) 447-0300 Fax: (405) 447-2250

Clinic Operating Hours
 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Weekends/Federal Holidays Closed

* Clinic and Pharmacy will be closed the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Accepting All SoonerCare Patients

Services Available Include:

- Medical
- Laboratory
- Ultrasound
- X-ray
- Behavioral Health



For an appointment,
 please call 405-878-5850.

Shawnee Clinic
 2029 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
 Shawnee, Oklahoma



Operated by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe



**BUILDING
 BLOCKS**



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

AN ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ENTERPRISE
 4000 N. KICKAPOO
 SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74804
 (405) 878-0633

Accepting children between 6 weeks to 12 years of age.
 DHS Licensed • 2 Star Facility

The A.S.T. Child Care Subsidy program is now serving ALL Native American families who qualify within the C.C.D.F. guidelines with the Child Care Certificate program. If you know families in need of assistance, please refer them to us. If you are unsure if you February qualify, please call me at (405) 878-0633. I look forward to helping families receive quality care for their children!

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE HOUSING AUTHORITY
 107 N. KIMBERLY ~ SHAWNEE, OK 74801
 405.273.1050 ~ FAX 405.275.0678



Available Housing Programs:

- Mutual Help/Homeownership
- Low Rent
- Homeowner/Homebuyer Maintenance Program
- Down Payment Assistance

Call or come by the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority offices for an application or more information about our current programs.

Priority is given to Absentee Shawnee Tribal members.

PHARMACY NEWS

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL PHARMACY
 SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Pharmacy (Shawnee Location) can fill prescriptions for enrolled tribal citizens only.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Clinic Pharmacy in Little Axe can fill prescriptions for tribal citizens written by Physicians not located at a Tribal Clinic under the following circumstances:

1. The prescription is for an Absentee Shawnee Tribal citizen who has an established chart at the Little Axe Clinic.
2. The prescription is on the formulary of approved medications and stocked in the pharmacy.

The following are a few tips to help us deliver pharmacy services to you more efficiently;

- ✓ Present insurance cards each time you pick up or drop off a prescription.
- ✓ Keep us informed of all changes in address, phone number and other contact information.
- ✓ Let the Pharmacy staff know if the prescription is going to be picked up or needs to be delivered.
- ✓ If you have any questions concerning your prescription please feel free to call and talk to our Pharmacist. They are here to assist you with your pharmaceutical needs.

**Don't let high fuel cost keep
your family cold this winter.
Let us help...**



**Now taking applications for
L.I.H.E.A.P.- HEATING cost.
and
Tribal Energy Assistance Program**

All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

**Department of Social Services
(405) 878-4723 or (405) 275-1468
Annette Wilson, Social Services**

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

• **Tribal Housing Improvements Application**

The Tribal Housing Improvement Program's goal is providing sanitary, safe, and decent housing for its members by utilizing the following criteria to select the most "in need" tribal members with homes that are in disrepair but are still suitable for rehabilitation. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

THIP list all applicants by a priority list:

- a. Handicapped/Disabled and Elderly
- b. Income
- c. Family Size/Overcrowded Living Conditions
- d. Condition of Home

Other Programs available:

- **Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program**
- **Pest Control Program**

Applications need to be completed and all necessary documents attached before the application will be processed.

Applications are available online on the website: www.astribe.com.

Submit completed application to:

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok 74801

Education Department

The following are current programs administered by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department:

- ◆ Academic (K-12) Program: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses.
- ◆ Zahn Program: established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates.
- ◆ Job Training Adult Education Program: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions.
- ◆ Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associates or bachelors degree, at any accredited college or university.
- ◆ Graduate Scholarship Program: funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund for one graduate admissions test.

For more information, please call Tresha Spoon
at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3341
or email to tresham@astribe.com

AST/EOC Tech contract courses still available:



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has an agreement with Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center to offer courses for tribal members and employees. More information is available on the tribe's website at www.astribe.com, click on the link Adult Career Development. No on-line courses are covered in the contract. All courses are campus-based courses only. A catalog of spring 2009 courses can be found at www.eoctech.org. The contract covers tuition and books, additional supplies required for the courses are the responsibility of the tribal member. Eligible courses are short-term courses, no full-time programs. This contract covers up to \$6,000.00 worth of tuition and books for tribal members, once this amount is depleted the agreement ends.

For tribal members interested in taking a course, the application is available for download or a copy can be picked up at the Education Department. Tribal members need to make an appointment to meet with the Education Director, Tresha Spoon, to complete the application process. Please bring your completed application and a copy of your tribal enrollment card.

**2009
TRIBAL PHONE NUMBERS**

Tribal Complex	(405) 275-4030
or	1-800 256-3341
OEP	(405) 273-9966
OEH & E	(405) 214-4235
Building Blocks	(405) 878-0633
Health Programs	(405) 878-4702
or	1-877-878-4702
Little Axe Clinic	(405) 447-0300
Shawnee Clinic	(405) 878-5850
Shawnee Pharmacy	(405) 878-5859
LA Resource Center	(405) 364-7298
or	(405) 364-7569
LA Cultural Center	(405) 447-3372
AST Police	(405) 275-3200
or	(405) 275-3432
AS Housing Authority	(405) 273-1050
Thunderbird Casino	(405) 360-9270
Or	1-800-259-LUCK
AST Media Dept	(405) 598-1279
AST Media Dept Fax	(405) 598-1294

The Office of Environmental Health and Engineering has moved to their new location. They are now in the brown duplex located on the AST complex, south of the AST Police department.

They have their own phone number which is (405) 214-4235.

**63RD
SEMI-ANNUAL
GENERAL COUNCIL
MEETING**

SATURDAY

APRIL 4TH, 2009

10:00 A.M.

**TECUMSEH SQUARE CENTER
TECUMSEH, OKLAHOMA**

Forms and applications can be downloaded off
of our website.
www.astribe.com



**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
2025 S. GORDON COOPER DR.
SHAWNEE, OK 74801**

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